

EQUIP:*Go Tell It On The Mountain*

We are so glad that you have joined us as we spend a morning being encouraged and equipped so that we can be ready to share the hope of Jesus Christ with others through our story.

God has worked in each of our lives uniquely and yet the themes of redemption, hope and rescue are all running through each of our stories. There are many ways God could use to tell the world of His love and His plan for them, but He chose us. And He didn't just choose our gifts and our victories; He often moves through the stories of His power to save us from our hopelessness and brokenness.

Whatever your story, it matters. God has written a unique one-of-a kind, for all-eternity story with your life. And we want to equip you with tools and practices that will help you share the story of what God has done in your life. Because, when we share what God has done in our lives, we bring Him glory and encourage those around us.

SCHEDULE:

- I. Vision:** Knowing Jesus and Making Him Known [10 MINS]
- II. Workshop No. 1:** Finding ourselves in God's story so that we share his [70 MINS]
- III. Workshop No. 2:** Importance of Prayer and Gentleness [40 MINS]

VISION:

Knowing Jesus and making Him Known...through our story.

Notes:

Matthew 20:1-16

Reflection Questions:

Have you seen the power of personal stories in our culture? What does this imply about our story?

Recall a time when learning the story of how God worked in someone else's life influenced your faith?

WORKSHOP No.1:

Finding ourselves in God's story so we can share His story

Notes:

Writing Our Story

There are number of benefits to writing out your story. First, many of us don't take time to think through the whole of our story until we're given the chance to stop and do so. You'll likely gain new insights into how different parts of your story have worked together to bring you where you are today. Second, life is complicated. Our stories are often made up of many different elements and show many different influences. If we are going to share our story with others, we need to condense and clarify so it's easy to tell and follow along. Lastly, there is something beautiful and freeing about writing out what God has done. When you're done, you'll have a physical, tangible, reminder of how the Lord has redeemed you and is restoring you to who He always intended you to be.

We will be using questions adapted from the campus ministry *CRU* to help us write out our story using **3 themes: fallen, redeemed, restored**. Ask the Lord to help you as you look back on your life. This process can bring up painful memories and even reveal places where you need to ask God for continued healing. Be open to what He wants to reveal to you and remember this is the story of how God has rescued you.

Fallen: My Life Before Christ

1. What about my life before Christ will relate most to the non-Christians I know?
2. What did my life revolve around? Where did I get my security, identity or happiness from?
3. How did those things begin to let me down?

Redeemed: How I Came to Christ

1. When was the first time I heard the gospel? What were my initial reactions?
2. When and why did my perspective of Christ begin to change?
3. What were the final struggles that went through my mind just before I accepted Him? Why did I finally decide to accept Christ (or give Him complete control of my life)?

Restored: My Life After Coming to Christ

1. How is my life different now? List some specific changes in your character, attitude and perspective on life.
2. What motivates me now? What do I live for?
3. Even though my life still isn't perfect, how does knowing Christ help me deal with that fact?



Practice Sharing Our Story

“Practice makes better” When it comes to sharing our stories we need to practice. And practice. And practice some more. Like any endeavor we undertake, we improve as we practice, hear critique, listen to feedback, edit and try again. As Christians, we should be open to receiving critique and feedback from safe, reliable sources, and God Himself.

Debrief:

1. How comfortable did I feel sharing?
2. Did I manage to tell my story in about 3-5 minutes?
3. Were there any areas that could be improved?
4. Was I vulnerable enough about areas in my life where I struggled before Christ and/or how I struggle now?
5. Did I give specific examples of how my life changed since I trusted Jesus?

WORKSHOP No.2:

Importance of Prayer, Gentleness, and the Holy Spirit

Notes:

Joining God:

Colossians 4:2-6, 1 Peter 3:15-16, 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, Galatians 5:25, Acts 16:6-14

Brainstorm/Pray (solo):

As we begin to share our stories, let's ask God for wisdom and discernment for the following:

1. Who in my life needs to hear my story? Who needs to know about Jesus? Who is in my "Top 3"? Who needs encouragement by a story of God's goodness?

1.

2.

3.

2. Discerning the Moment/Pray through your intentions: Not my agenda, but God's. I might just be visiting the field, or watering, or planting. But I hold that with an open hand.

Brainstorm/Pray (group):

Share what you feel is your next step and continue brainstorming together. Share an "I WILL..." statement with the group and then spend time in prayer. Here are a few ideas to help you brainstorm your next step:

Tier 1:

- Pray for a specific person God has put on your heart
- Share your story through a conversation, a Christmas card, over coffee...

Prayerfully, this will lead to an opportunity for you to share the gospel. Our pastors have created a good resource on the next page to help walk you through how to share the gospel. If the person you are sharing with is interested in learning more, here are a few ideas to help you take the next step of discipleship.

Tier 2:

- Invite to a bible study (one-on-one study, TTI study, Q-Place study are good options)
- Invite to Christmas Eve service

I will _____.

GOSPEL

Sharing the good news

God created us to be in close relationship with Him. [John 17:3, Matthew 6:9]

Our sin separates us from God. [Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23]

Sin cannot be paid for by good deeds. [Romans 3:20, Isaiah 64:6]

Paying the price for sin, Jesus came, died and rose again. [1Corinthians 15:3-4, Romans 5:10]

Everyone who trusts in Jesus alone is given eternal life. [Romans 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:8-9]

Life that's eternal starts now and lasts forever with God. [John 1:12, John 14:6]

So, what do I do? Revelation 3:20, Acts 16:30-31

God, I want to know you personally. Thank you for creating me, loving me, and wanting to be in a relationship with me. I'm sorry for my sins; I know that they have separated us. Thank you for coming to earth, dying to pay for my sins, and rising from the dead. I trust you with my life; I put you in control; and I accept your gift of eternal life.